THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that while as on 31st March, 1992 there were 140 branches of foreign banks in India, the number as on 1st April, 1995 was 153.

(b) Owing to geographical spread, branch network, customer profile, level of computerisation being different, public sector banks and foreign banks are not comparable.

(c) RBI has reported that in the documents containing performance obligations and commitments for 1993-94 and 1994-95 submitted to RBI by the nationalised banks in connection with release of additional capital, banks have been asked to prepare action plans on the following key areas:—

1. Improvement in organisational set up.

2. Improving the productivity levels including mechanisation in key/selective areas and containment of staff.

3. Human resources development.

4. Improving house keeping and internal control.

5. Strengthening vigilance machinery and deterrent action against erring officials.

6. Profit planning and improvement in profit levels.

Uttarbanga Khetriya Gramin Bank

2301. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Management of Uttarbanga Khetriya Gramin Bank has cancelled the panel of auditors sent by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) whether it is within the authority of the Rural Bank, if not, what action has been taken against the chairman of U.K.G.B; and

(c) by when this Chairman is going to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had sent to the Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank (UKGB) a panel comprising the names of three audit firms. UKGB was advised to appoint the statutory auditors for the year 1993-94 from the panel in the order of preference indicated in the letter.

UKGB was not satisfied with the audit conducted by the firm at Serial No. 1 in the panel for the year 1992-93. Further the Board of Directors of UKGB interpreted the order of preferences given by NABARD, as recommendatory and appointed the audit firm at Serials No. 3 in the panel as statutory auditors for the year 1993-94. NABARD has informed Central Bank of India (CBI), which is the sponsor bank and UKGB that the appointment so made by UKGB was not in order. However, as the issue has arisen on account of a difference of interpretation, NABARD has not suggested any action against the Chairman of UKGB. However, CBI has decided to replace the concerned Chairman of UKGB. NABARD has approved the selection of the replacement.

Delay in declaring result of Air Hostess examination

2302. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2039 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 1995 and state:

(a) the nature of proposed changes in the qualification for selection of Air Hostesses/Assistant Flight Pursers;

(b) the reasons for changing the qualifications for selection even after the conduct of written examination and personal interviews;

(c) the number of candidates who appeared for personal interviews; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter in view of the mental tension being faced by the candidates due to delay in declaration of final result?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) In the wake of intense competition faced by both Indian Airlines and Air India from private and international operators and the felt need to upgrade the quality of cabin crew particularly at the induction stage, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Managing Director, Indian Airlines to recommend suitable changes in the pre-entry qualifications and methodology of recruitment to ensure induction of more suitable personnel. The Committee has since submitted its recommendations, which have been forwarded to Air India and Indian Airlines for consideration of their respective Boards of Directors.

(c) and (d) 786 boys and 1441 girls were short-listed for personal interview. In view of the recommendation of the Committee, it has been decided that no further action be taken on the selection process conducted in 1994 but some vacancies may be filled up from among the candidates after following the recommended selection procedures.

Projects/schemes for development of Tourism in Assam

2303. SHRI JALAUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether projects/schemes sanctioned by Central Department of Tourism for development of tourist facilities in Assam during last five years have been completed/implemented by State Government, if so, names thereof;

(b) names of remaining projects/schemes yet to be completed/implemented;

(c) whether funds sanctioned by CDOT for said projects have been released to State Government, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether CDOT has sanctioned any fresh projects/schemes for Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in 1994-95 and 1995-96, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether CDOT proposes to sanction a Tourist Lodge at Dibrugarh, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Based on the proposals received from the State Govt. of Assam, Central Department of Tourism sanctioned twenty nine projects/schemes for development of tourism in Assam during the last five years. Government of Assam has reported that eight schemes have been completed and rest of the schemes are under various stages of execution. The details of the projects completed and on going are given in the enclosed statements I & II. (*See* below).

(c) The Central Department of Tourism releases 50% of the sanctioned amount for each of the project as first instalment and on receipt of utilisation certificate and work progress report, subsequent instalments of funds are released to State Governments.

(d) On the basis of the proposals received from the Govt. of Assam, Union Government sanctioned two projects namely:—

Tourist Complex at Halflong for Rs. 27.79 lakhs and Tourist Complex at Rajiv Gandhi Wild Life Sanctuary, Orang for Rs. 25.20 lakhs during 1994-95. No proposal was received from the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh seeking central assistance during 1994-95. State Governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have not sent any proposal for central financial assistance during the current year i.e. 1995-96.

(e) No proposal has been received from the Government of Assam seeking central assistance for construction of Tourist lodge at Dibrugarh.